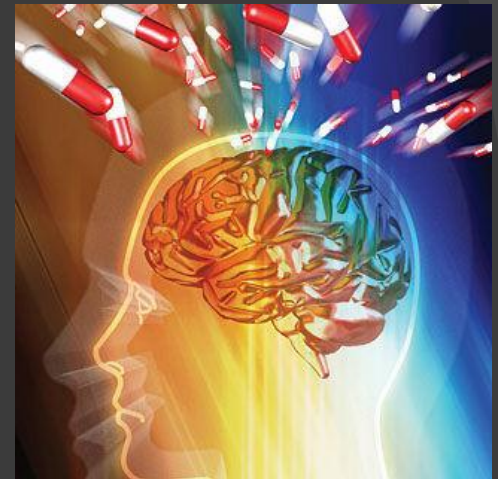


Ms.Laufer

DRUGS AND CONSCIOUSNESS

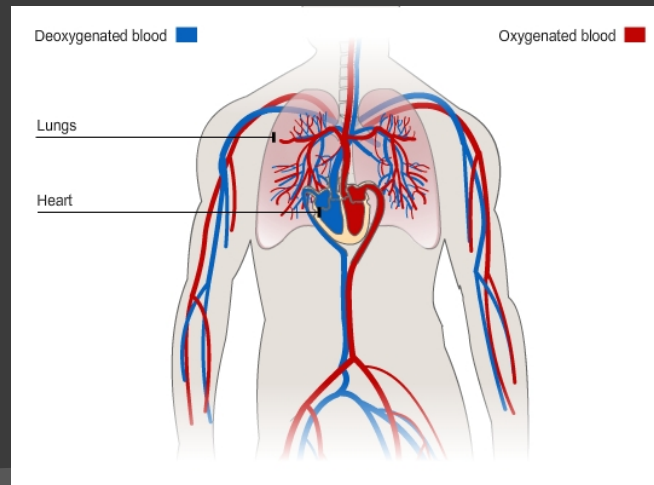
Psychoactive Drugs

- Psychoactive Drugs
 - Chemicals that affect the nervous system and result in altered consciousness
 - Range from stimulants like the caffeine in coffee, to depressants like alcohol to hallucinogens like LSD



How Drugs Work

- Drugs are gradually absorbed into the blood.
- Carried through the blood and tank to various parts of the body
- Drugs are taken into the body from the outside



Marijuana



- Dried leaves and flowers of Indian hemp, that produce an altered state of consciousness when smoked or ingested
- Active ingredient is tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)
- Made by drying the plant

Marijuana

- Effects vary from person to person
 - Can be pleasant and unpleasant
- If person is already unhappy or depressed, marijuana will blow the negative feelings out of proportion



Marijuana

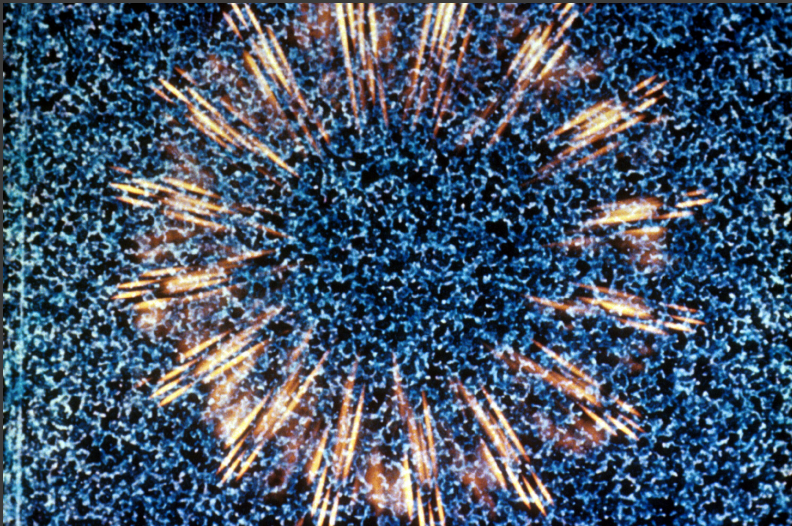
- Studies suggest that marijuana use is more damaging to lungs than cigarettes
- Causes lower IQ
 - Disrupts memory formation
- Long-term use can lead to dependence and addiction
- Also considered the gateway drug
 - meaning that this might lead to other drug use or a certain pattern of behavior



Hallucinations

● Hallucinations

- Perceptions that have no direct external cause
- Can occur under normal conditions
- Daydreams involve mild hallucinations



Hallucinogens

- Drugs that often produce hallucinations
- Also called psychedelics
 - Create a loss of contact with reality
- Those are...
 - LSD
 - PCP
 - Mescaline
 - Psilocybin



LSD



- Lysergic acid diethylamide
- One of the most powerful drugs known
- Interacts with serotonin levels in the brain
- Serotonin is a neurotransmitter that deal with making us feel good and happy

LSD

- Taking LSD is known as a “trip”
- During a trip a person can experience...
 - Intense and rapidly changing perceptions
 - These are depended on what mood the person is in, and what their beliefs are
 - Also could be Perceptual hallucinations
 - Where the wall could pulsating or breathing
 - Sounds may be seen and visual stimuli may be heard



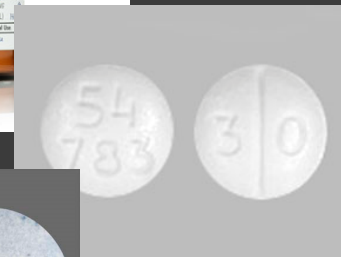
Opiates

- Are usually called narcotics
- Produce Analgesia
 - Is what causes pain reduction
 - Gives the taker the feeling of euphoria
 - When the person feels awake and asleep



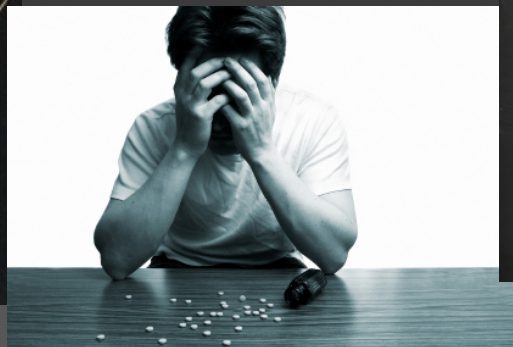
Opiates

- First know to come from the poppy plant
- Medications that are considered opiates are...
 - Morphine
 - Codeine
 - Oxycodone
 - Hydrocodone



Opiates

- Usage can cause...
 - Fatigue
 - Physical and psychological dependence
 - Confusion
 - Depressed respiration and difficulty breathing



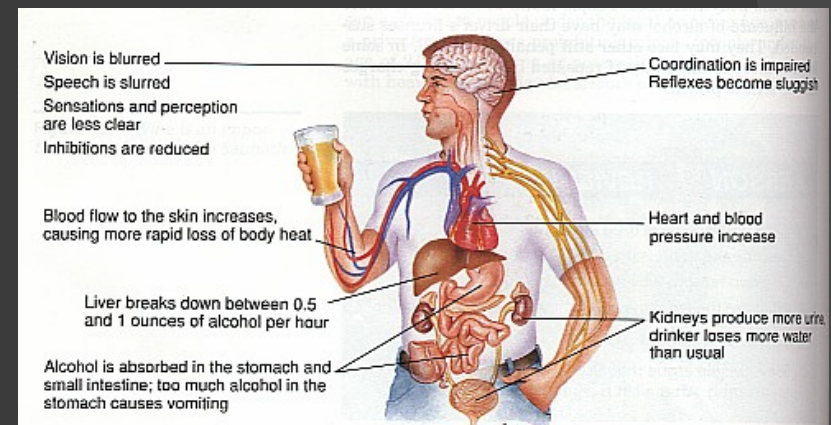
Alcohol

- Most widely used and abused mind-altering substance in the United States
- Actually a depressant serves to inhibit brain's normal functions



Alcohol

- Person's experiences can be....
 - Slurred speech
 - Blurred vision
 - Impaired judgment and memory
 - Permanent brain and liver damage and change in personality
- Effect of alcohol is general loosening of inhibitions
- Depends on the amount and frequency and drinker's body weight



Drug Abuse and Treatment

- Drug abusers are people who regularly use illegal drugs or excessively use legal drug
- Do it for several reasons
 - Avoid boredom
 - Fit in with peers
 - Gain more self-confidence
 - Forget about problems
 - Relax or simply feel good



Drug Abuse and Treatment

- Treatment usually involves the following steps
 1. The drug abuser must admit that he or she has a problem
 2. The drug abuser must enter a treatment program and/or get therapy
 3. The drug abuser must remain drug free